



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,618	02/05/2002	Eugene Lukanidin	7879ZYAIIZY	6204

7590 09/28/2004
Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, NY 11530

EXAMINER

FETTEROLF, BRANDON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1642

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,618

Applicant(s)

LUKANIDIN, EUGENE

Examiner

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD

Art Unit

1642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: sequence listing see attached.

Art Unit: 1642

Lukanidin, Eugene

Date of Priority: 07/09/1990

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the applicant's status inquiry filed on March 25, 2004, Applicant filed a Preliminary Amendment on February 5, 2002 canceling claims 1-10 and added claims 11-19, directed at an antibody.

Claims 11-19 are currently pending and under consideration

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 2/05/2002 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because many of the references were not found in the parent case, Serial Number 09/298,625. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609 ¶ C(1).

Specification

The disclosure is objected (page 16) to because of the following informalities:

The specification teaches (page 16) that Fig. 26 depicts the effects of anti-Mts1 antibody administered to mice bearing highly metastatic CSML-100 tumors but is silent on what the description of A-E are. Does A represent untreated cells or does D? The applicant is reminded that in response to this objection, no new matter should be entered.

In addition, given the information at the time the invention was filed, it would appear that the citizenship being the USSR on the declaration filed on February 5, 2002 by the Applicant is incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 11-18, as written, do not sufficiently distinguish over antibodies, as they exist naturally because the claims do not particularly point out any non-naturally occurring differences between the claimed products and the naturally occurring products. In the absence of the hand of man, the naturally occurring products are considered non-statutory subject matter. *See Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, 447 U.S. 303, 206 USPQ 193 (1980). The claims should be amended to indicate the hand of the inventor, e.g., by insertion of "Isolated" or "Purified" as taught by page 28 of the specification. See MPEP 2105.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11-13 are rejected as vague and indefinite for reciting the term mts-1 protein in association with binding characteristics as the sole means of identifying the claimed molecule. The use of laboratory designations only to identify a particular molecule renders the claims indefinite because different laboratories may use the same laboratory designations to define completely distinct molecules. The rejection can be obviated by amending the claims to specifically and uniquely identify the mts-1 protein, for example, by SEQ ID NO and the function of mts-1 protein.

Art Unit: 1642

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 11-13, 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the instant case, the claims are inclusive of antibodies that bind to a genus of mammalian proteins referred to as “mts-1” and fragments thereof. However, the written description in this case only sets forth antibodies against human mts-1 protein consisting of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 and four fragments (SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, 6, and 7) within SEQ ID NO: 2.

The specification teaches (page 6, lines 23-25) that the antibodies of the present invention include, but is not limited to, any antibody directed against an mts-1 polypeptide, or any peptide, fragment or derivative of the mts-1 protein. With regards to the mts-1 protein, the specification teaches (page 28, lines 14-16) the mts-1 protein can be mammalian, including rat, mouse or human. However, the written description only sets forth one species of mts-1 protein, the human mts-1 protein, consisting of an amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 and four fragments (SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, 6, and 7) within SEQ ID NO: 2; and therefore, is not commensurate with the full scope of antibodies that potentially bind any and all mammalian mts-1 proteins or fragments thereof. A description of a genus may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of species falling within the scope of the genus or by describing structural features common the genus that “constitute a substantial portion of the genus.” See University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 1568, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997): “A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNA, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus or of a recitation of structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus.”

The court has since clarified that this standard applies to compounds other than cDNAs. See University of Rochester v. G.D. Searle & Co., Inc., ___ F.3d ___, 2004 WL 260813, at *9 (Fed.Cir.Feb.

Art Unit: 1642

13, 2004). The instant specification fails to provide sufficient descriptive information, such as definitive structural or functional features that are common to the genus. That is, the specification provides neither a representative number of amino acid sequences that encompass the genus of mammalian mts-1 proteins nor does it provide a description of structural features that are common to the mammalian mts-1 protein. Since the disclosure fails to describe the common attributes or characteristics that identify members of the genus, and because the genus is highly variant, the disclosure of one species of mammalian mts-1 protein is insufficient to describe the genus. Thus, one of skill in the art would reasonably conclude that the disclosure fails to provide a representative number of species to describe and enable the genus as broadly claimed.

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19USPQ2d 1111, clearly states “applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of *the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the ‘written description’ inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*.” (See page 1117.) The specification does not “clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed.” (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116). As discussed above, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure(s) of the encompassed genus of mammalian mts-1 proteins, and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. The compound itself is required. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC 1993) and *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016.

One cannot describe what one has not conceived. See *Fiddes v. Baird*, 30 USPQ2d 1481 at 1483. In *Fiddes*, claims directed to mammalian FGF’s were found to be unpatentable due to lack of written description for that broad class. The specification provided only the bovine sequence. Therefore, only human mts-protein (SEQ ID NO:2) and the four fragments (SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, 6, and 7) within SEQ ID NO: 2, but not the full breadth of the claims, meets the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 1115).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto *et al.* (IDS 1988) in further view of Cambell, A.M. (Monoclonal Antibody Technology, Elsevier Science, NY, 1986, pages 1-33).

Instant case, the claims are drawn to a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody against a mammalian mts-1 protein, wherein said mts-1 protein is human, rat, or mouse. The claims are further drawn specifically to a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody against an isolated human mts-1 protein or fragment thereof comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or the fragments SEQ ID NOs: 4-7.

Goto *et al.* teach (page 18, 1st column, 3rd paragraph) the isolation and characterization of a cDNA encoding a protein highly homologous to S-100, referred to as pEL98 protein. Goto *et al.* further teach an pEL98 amino acid sequence (page 50, Fig. 2, also see attached sequence search) which is at least 93.1% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the pEL98 protein for the purposes of generating antibodies that specifically bind to the claimed peptides. One would have been motivated to do so because it is conventional in the art to generate antibodies following the cloning of a gene. Campbell, A.M. teaches (page 29) that it is "customary now for any group working on a macromolecule to both clone the genes coding for it and make monoclonal antibodies to it (sometimes without a clear objective for their application)". Clearly, the generation of polyclonal antibodies against a peptide that is 93% similar to SEQ ID NO: 2 would cross-react with epitopes within SEQ ID NOs: 4-7.

Art Unit: 1642

Further, it would have been conventional to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to produce a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody to pEL98. Lastly, the Board of Patent Appeals and interferences has taken the position that once an antigen has been isolated, the manufacture of monoclonal antibodies against it is *prima facie* obvious. See Ex parte Ehrlich, 3 USPQ 2d 1011 (PTO Bd. Pat. APP. & Int. 1987), Ex parte Sugimoto, 14 USPQ 2d 1312 (PTO Bd. Pat. APp. & Int. 1990).

Therefore, NO claim is allowed

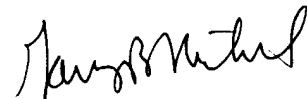
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD whose telephone number is (571)-272-2919. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Siew can be reached on (571) 272-0787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD
Examiner
Art Unit 1642

BF



GARY NICKOL
PRIMARY EXAMINER